

**eti**

*The Education and Training Inspectorate -  
Promoting Improvement*



*Providing Inspection Services for*  
**Department of Education  
Department for Employment and Learning  
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

## **Education and Training Inspectorate**

### **Report of a Follow-up Inspection**

**St Malachy's High School  
Castlewellan**

**June 2007**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF ST MALACHY'S HIGH SCHOOL, CASTLEWELLAN, CO DOWN, BT31 9AG (423-0211)**

The standard inspection in January 2006 highlighted strengths in the friendly atmosphere and the behaviour of the pupils, the hard-working staff, the good quality of the pastoral care for the pupils, the leadership of the Principal, and developing role of the newly formed senior management team (SMT). The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to continue to improve the standards achieved by the pupils; including standards in public examinations; and
- to review the school development plan (SDP) to focus more sharply on learning and teaching, and to ensure the dissemination of the existing good practice.

In the interval since the inspection, the following action which affects the work of the school, has taken place. For example:

- the SMT has been working collaboratively and effectively;
- the roles and responsibilities of the pastoral team and middle management have been more clearly defined to include monitoring, evaluating and reviewing the pastoral and academic work across the school;
- the effective professional development of teachers has been led mainly by school staff;
- the effective professional development for the pastoral team has been provided from within the school, from a South-Eastern Education and Library Board (SEELB) Curriculum Advisory and Support Service (CASS) officer and from other agencies; and
- a student council has been formed.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a follow-up inspection on 7 June 2007.

The following are the most important improvements since the inspection:

- the developing culture of reflection and self-evaluation across the school;
- the useful and structured monitoring and evaluation processes which have developed across the school;
- the professional development of staff, through their involvement in the decision making process of curriculum development;

- the very good use made of external and internal information by management at all levels to inform planning, learning and teaching, and provide support for the pupils;
- the increased inter-dependence, and significantly improved working practices of the pastoral and academic staff to improve the standards achieved by the pupils;
- the increased links with parents and outside agencies; and
- the increased departmental focus on learning and teaching, standards of achievement and self-evaluation in line with the SDP.

As part of the follow-up inspection process, the school conducted its own evaluation of the progress in the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection. The school submitted a self-evaluative report to the Inspectorate setting out its findings.

The inspection confirms that, through effective self-evaluation, the school has identified appropriately its priorities for future development and improvement.

There were many significant strengths in the school's approach to self-evaluation. The quality of the report was very good. The report provided clear evidence of excellent progress made following the inspection. The processes used to gather the evidence were very effective. The Inspectorate confirms that the findings and recommendations contained in the self-evaluative report are accurate and appropriate, and are an effective response to the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection report.

The school has made good progress in addressing the key areas for action. The parents and broader community can have confidence in the school's commitment to and action for improvement, and the effectiveness of its response to the findings of the standard inspection.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2007

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the DE website: [www.deni.gov.uk](http://www.deni.gov.uk) or may be obtained from the Inspection Services Branch, Department of Education, Rathgael House, 43 Balloo Road, Bangor, Co Down BT19 7PR.